Implementation Wildhorse Allotment.

Date	Pasture/Key Area	Utilization				Residual Greenline Stubble Height (RGSH)	
		Allowable Use		2014 Actual Use*		Target (or >)	2014 Actual
		Floodplain wet meadow	Dry Meadow	Floodplain wet meadow	Dry Meadow		
August 21st	Wildhorse Wildhorse Creek	35%	50%	NM	NM	5”	5”
October 28th	Wildhorse Wildhorse Creek	35%	50%	VE 45%	VE 15%	5”	6”
August 21st	Wildhorse NF Willow Creek	35%	50%	VE 25%	VE 5%	5”	NM
October 28th	Wildhorse NF Willow Creek	35%	50%	VE 40%	VE 20%	5”	5”
October 28th	Barnes Valley Strawberry Creek	45%	50%	35%	NM	4”	8”
August 21st	Green Valley Green Creek	45%	50%	VE 25%	NM	4”	NM

Methods of determining use: VE – Visual Estimate, PP – Paired Plot, HWC – Height Weight Curve, NM – Not measured, NA – Not Applicable

Wildhorse Pasture

The Wildhorse Creek area of Wildhorse Pasture was visited on August 21st, three weeks after the authorized off date. At that time visual estimate of utilization was not done. Residual Greenline Stubble Height was measured to be 5”, in compliance with standards. There is still a question of the seeming inability of the area along Wildhorse Creek on the Oregon side to recover as quickly as the Wildhorse Creek area on the adjacent allotment on the California side. Trampling – instability along creek on Oregon side is evident. There is the influence of the old road at the fence line and the fact that it is still a magnet for cattle to use as a crossing.. What role are the check dams playing in the areas inability to recover? What role are the juniper placed as a barrier to cattle having – are they resulting in the desired effect or are the increasing the impact of cattle along the greenline/floodplain? Historic photos before and after the structures were

installed show a marked improvement, but could they be having unforeseen impacts?

The waterhole at Hay Spring was approximately ½ full. The lower waterhole was approximately ¼ full. There was fresh sign at the lower waterhole.

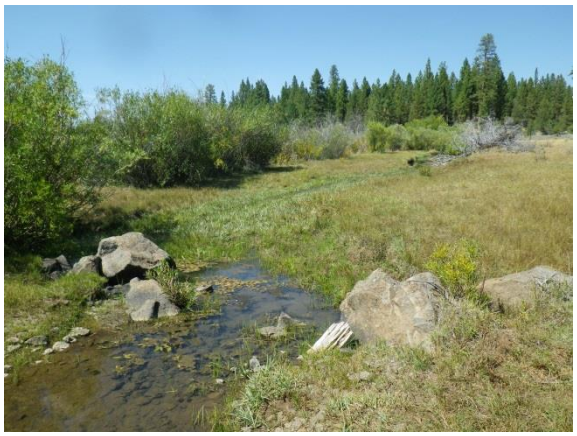
Along the Ruby Pipeline Corridor toward Fort Springs Allotment there were 8 pair Ed Garrett Ranch Cattle. Shad Albertson was called and instructed to remove cattle in 3 days. The influence of stragglers needs to be considered in the overall picture when trying to determine the areas approach to desired resource conditions.

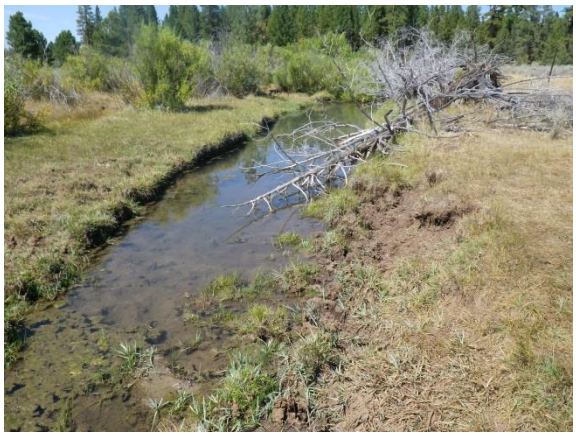
The NF Willow area of Wildhorse Pasture was also visited on August 21st. Visual estimate of utilization along the flood plain was 25% and in the dry meadow areas 5%. The beaver dam is still present and having an influence on the areas vegetation and hydrology. The dam is actually starting to sprout willows. There was no recent beaver activity noted.

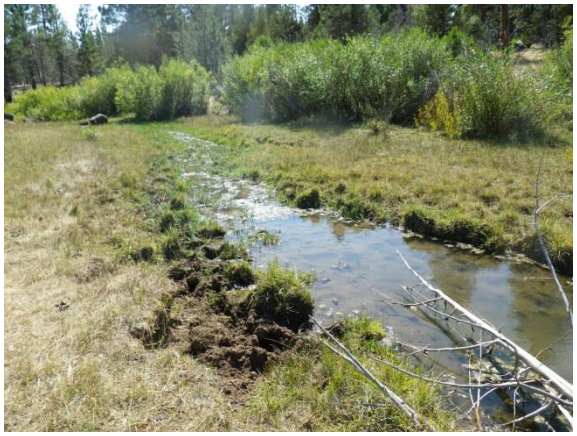
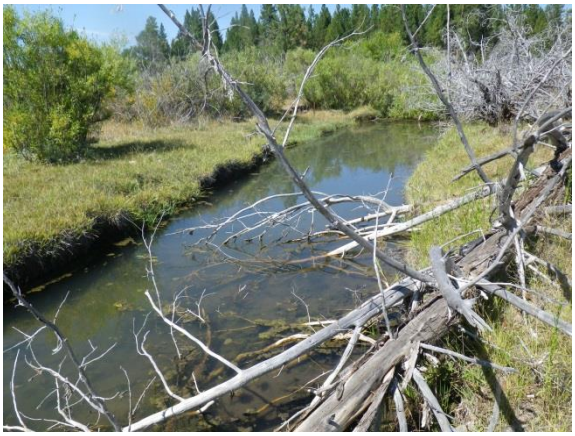
On October 28th the NF Willow area of Wildhorse Pasture was visited again. Residual Greenline Stuble Height was measured at 5". Visual estimates showed floodplain use to be at 40% and dry meadow use at 20%. Wildhorse Creek area of Wildhorse Pasture was visited again on October 28th. At that time it appeared that there was some increased use along the flood plain. Visual estimate showed utilization to be at 45%. Residual Greenline Stubble Height was measured at 6".

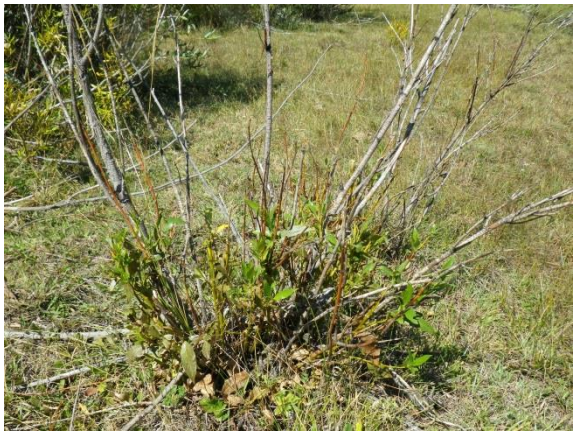
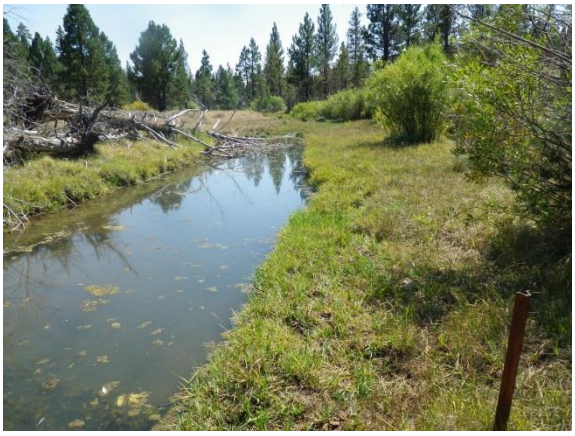
It appears there was sufficient time and water for the plants (sedge) along the greenline to regrow between August 21st and October 28th along Wildhorse Creek. However the ability for regrowth along the floodplain was not as great, likely due to the lowering of the water table as the year progressed.

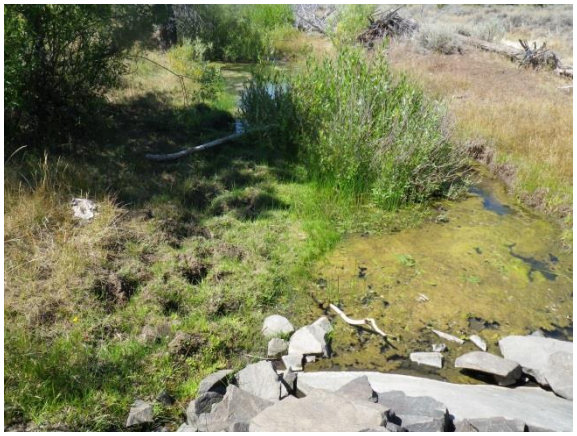
Wildhorse Pasture - Wildhorse Creek
August 21st, 2014

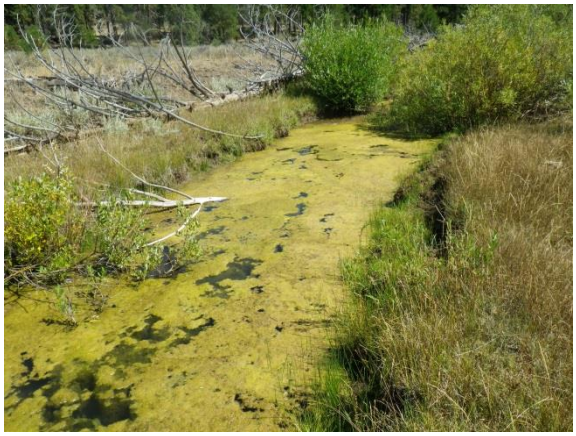


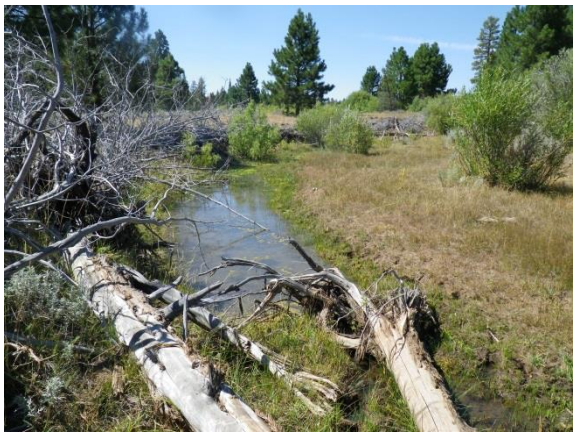


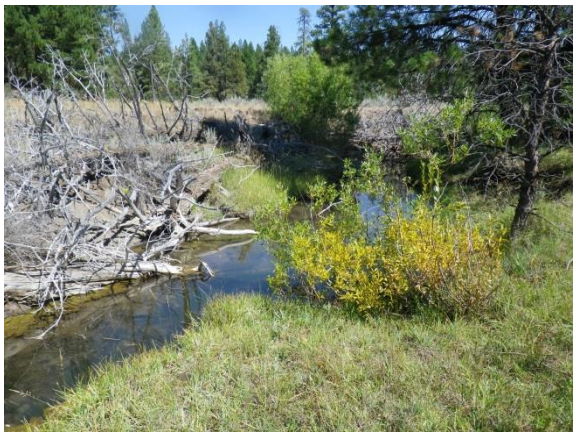





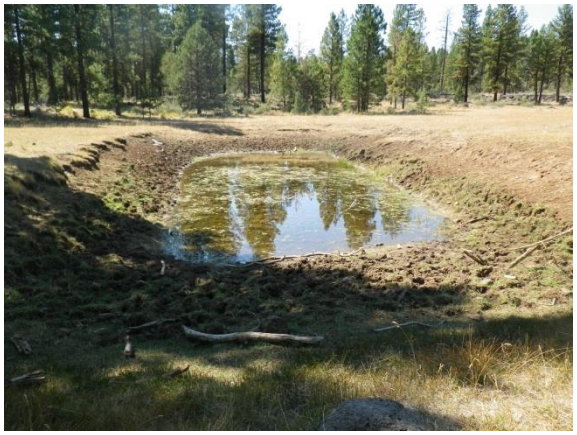


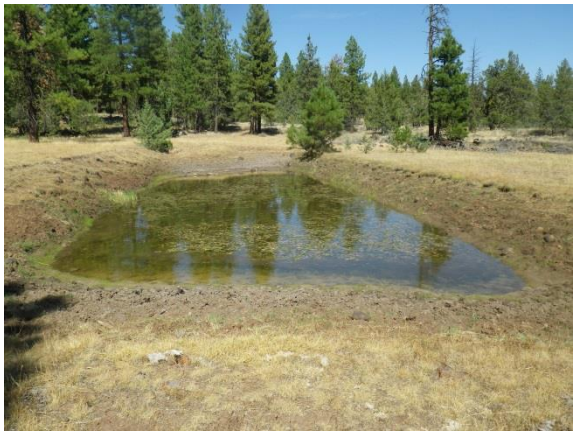




Wildhorse Pasture - Waterholes

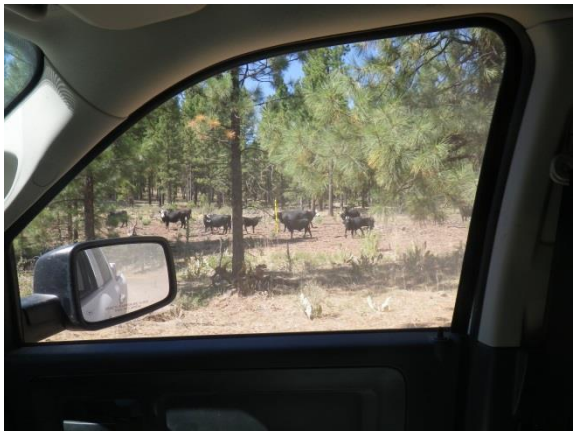
August 21st, 2014





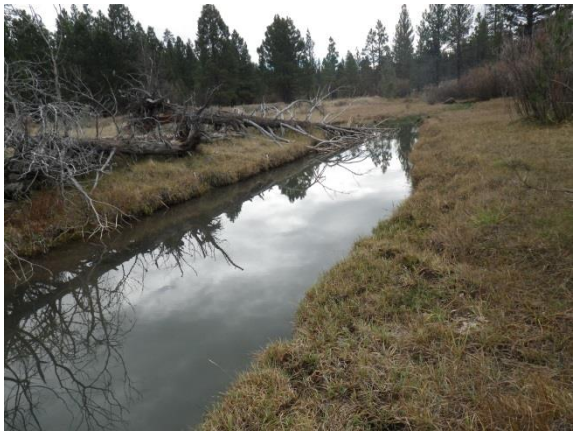
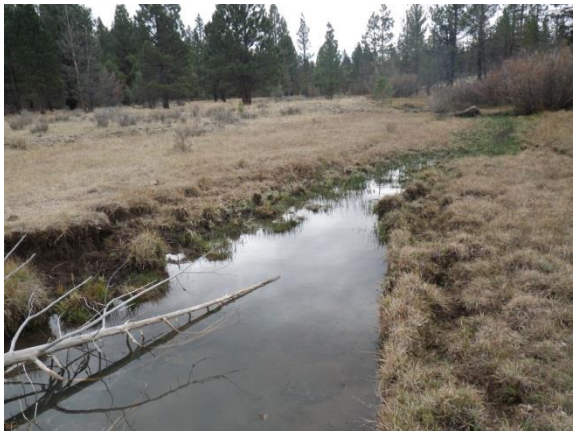
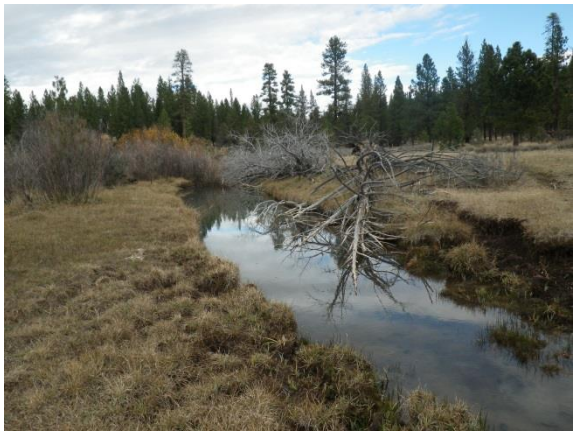
Wildhorse Pasture - Cattle Ruby Pipeline Corridor

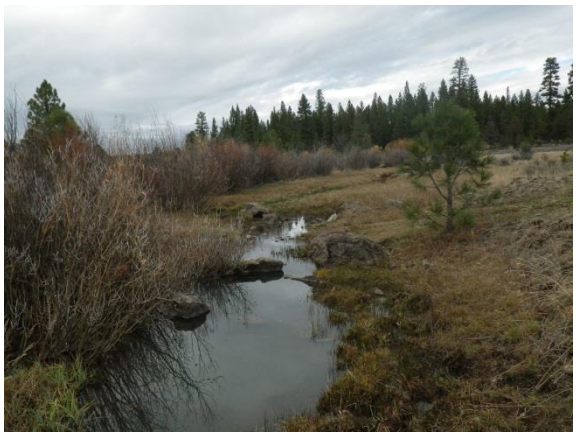
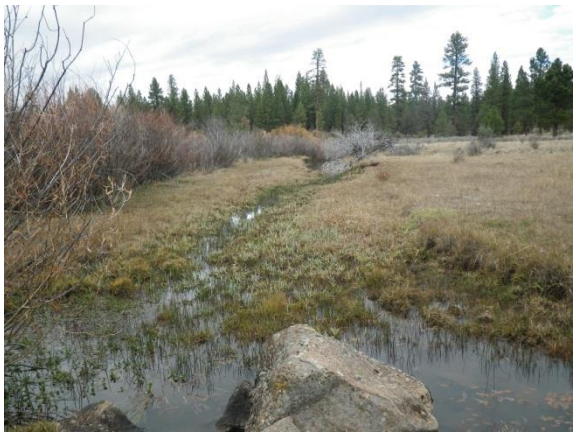
August 21st, 2014

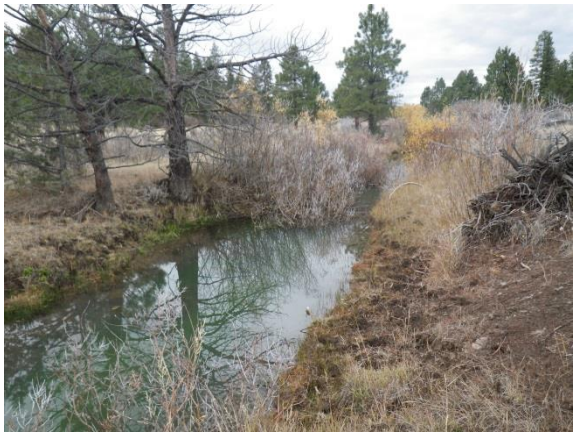
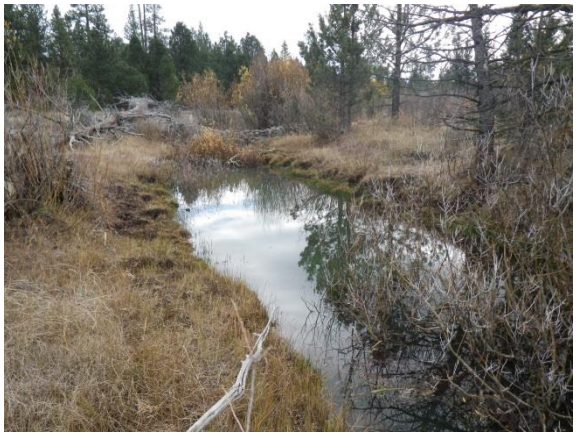
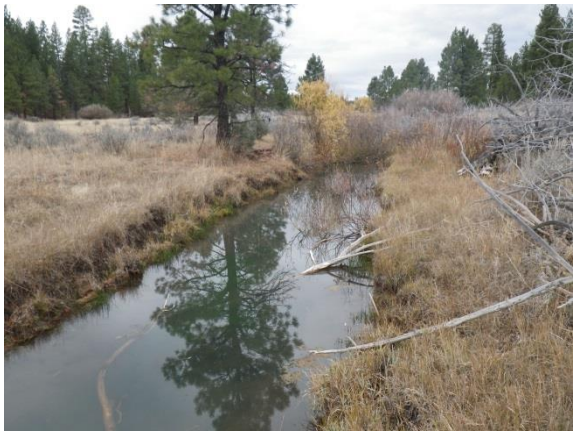
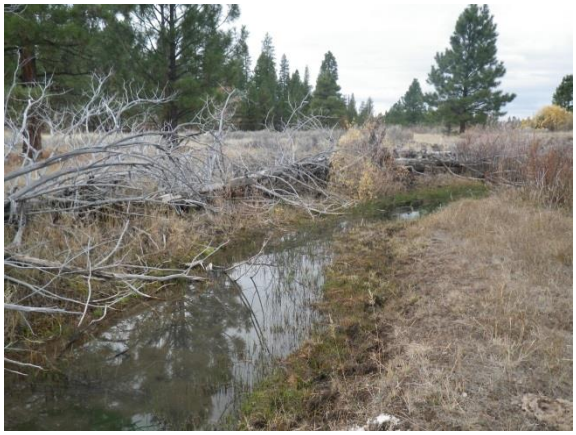
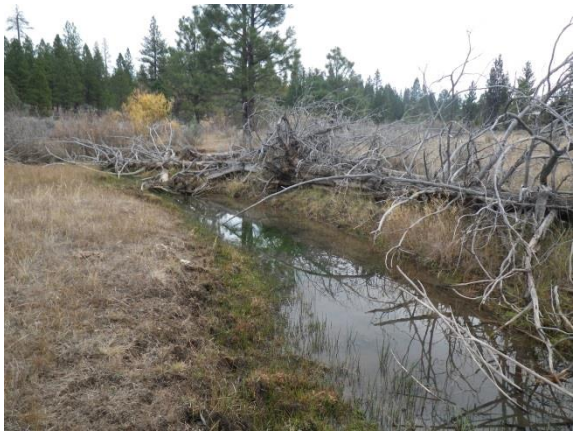
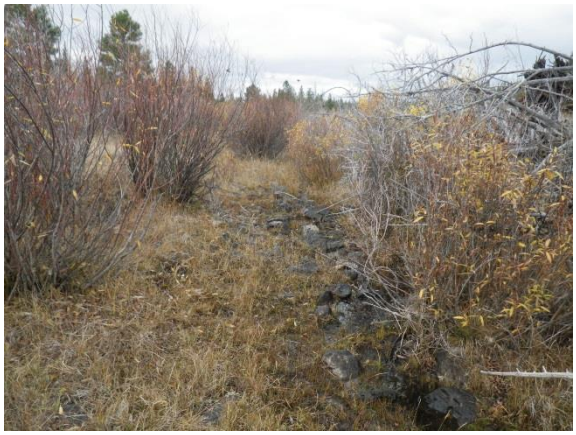


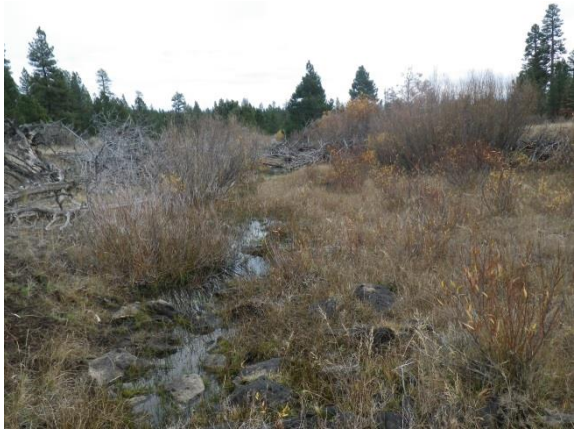
Wildhorse Pasture - Wildhorse Creek

October 28th, 2014



Barnes Valley Pasture

The Strawberry Creek area was visited on October 20th, 2014. RGSH was measured at 8" and a visual estimation of utilization was completed for the floodplain and moist meadows – 25%- -45% and uplands (*Artemisia* sites) – 50%. The use was considered average in that both higher and lower utilization has been documented at the site. There was still water present in the channel which was most likely from the recent rain event. Regrowth was noted in the *Artemisia* sites, mainly *Poa secunda.*

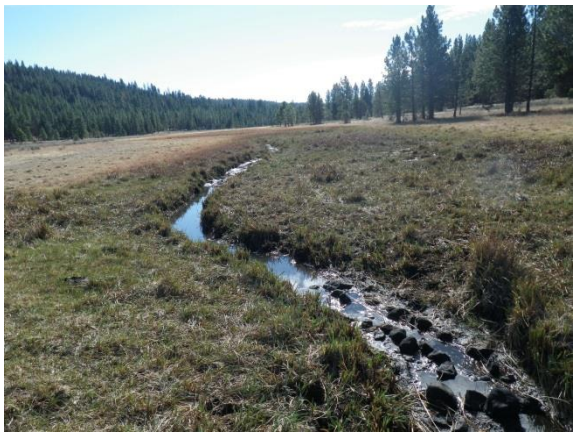
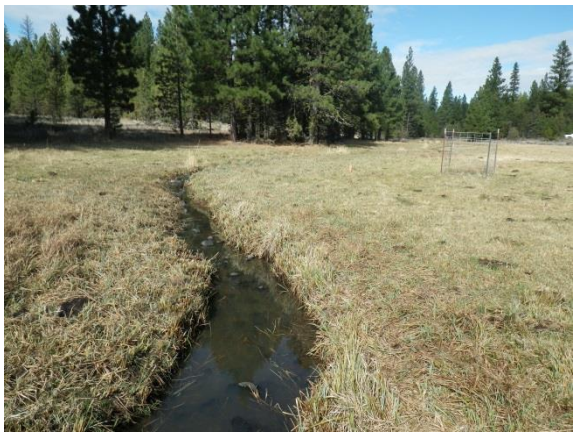
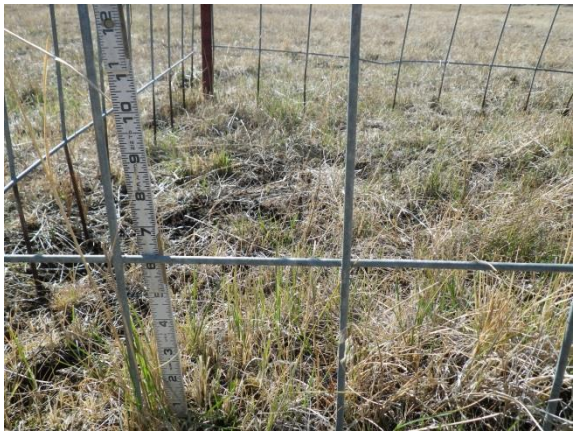
Monitoring was also done at Coleman Spring site on October 28th. This area is one of the typical dry meadow communities with some influence from the adjacent spring. A visual estimate of utilization was between 15% and 25%. There are some isolated spots of instability in meadow.

A temporary corral was noted on the division fence between Barnes Valley Pasture and Wildhorse Pasture.

Barnes Valley Pasture - Strawberry Creek

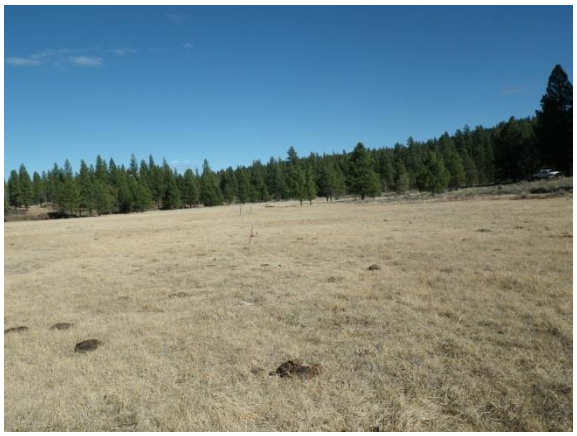
August 21, 2014

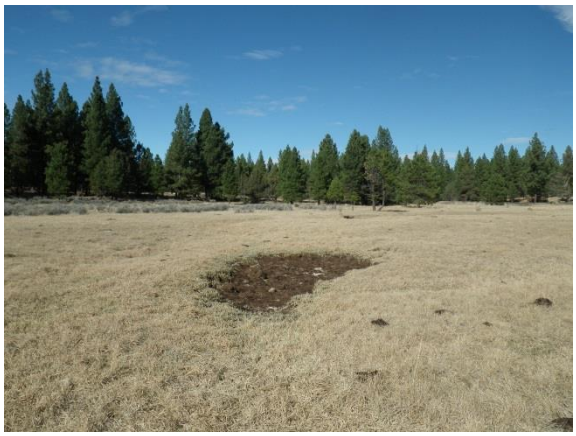


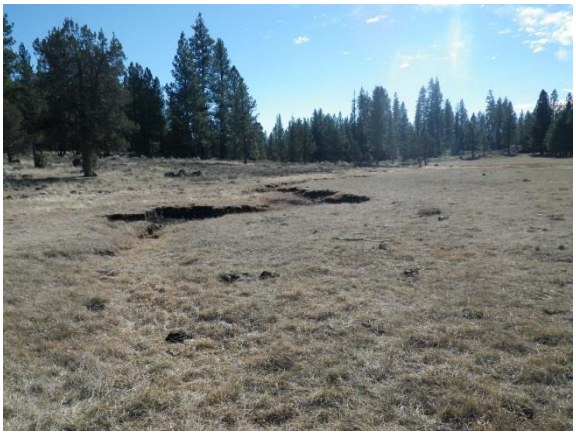





Barnes Valley Pasture – Coleman Spring

August 21, 2014







Barnes Valley Pasture – Corral

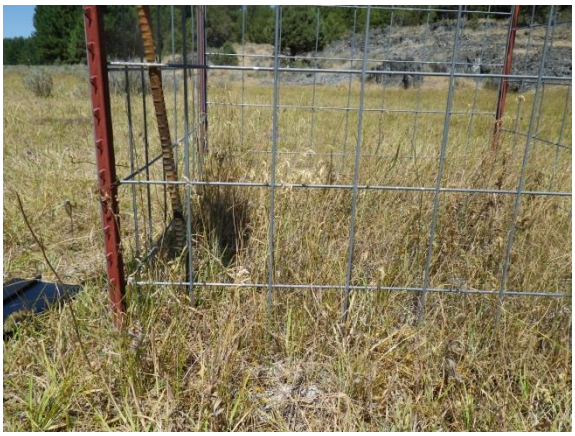
August 21, 2014

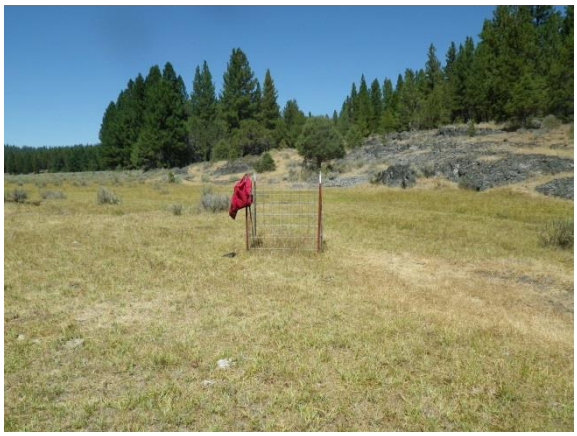
Green Valley Pasture

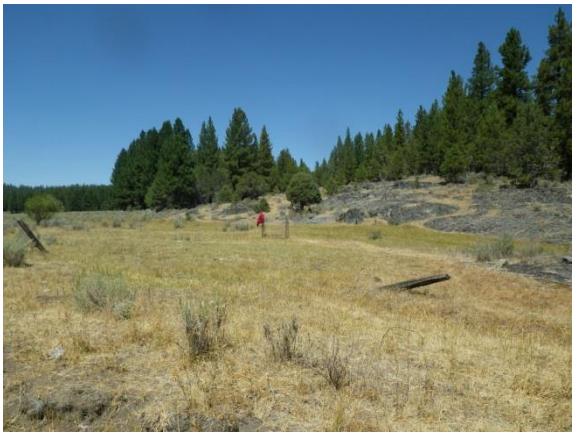
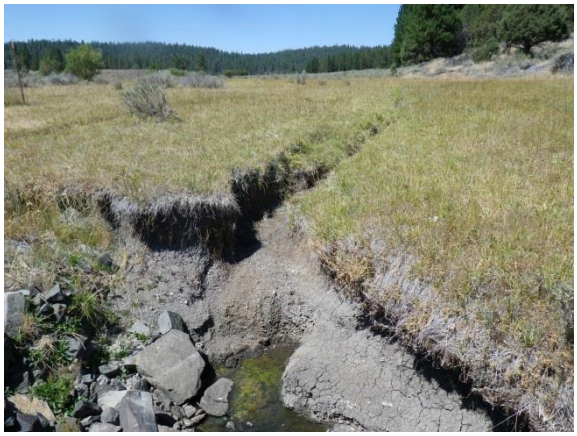
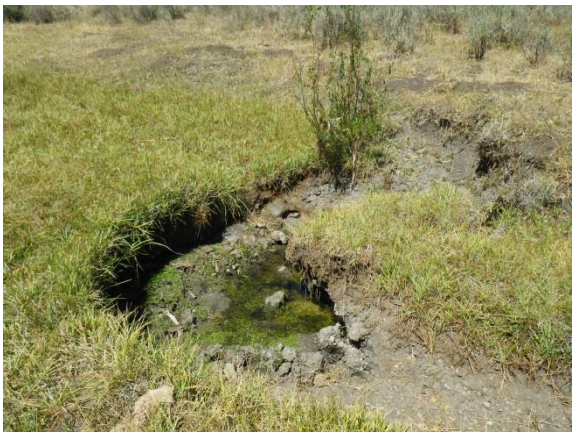
Green Creek area was visited on August 21st. This was three weeks after the authorized off dates. Use was estimated at 20% - 30%. The creek was dry except for 2 stagnant pools. There were two pair cattle next to Dog Lake Recreation area.

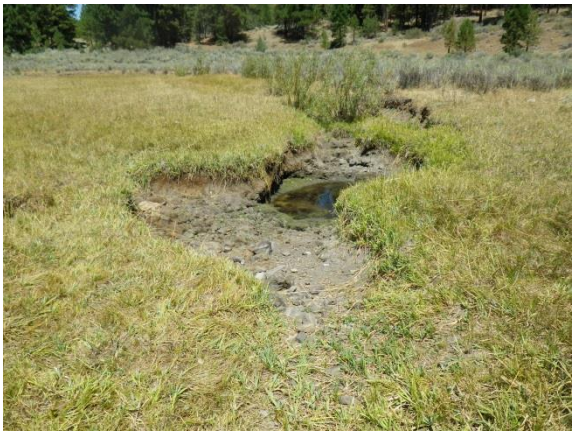
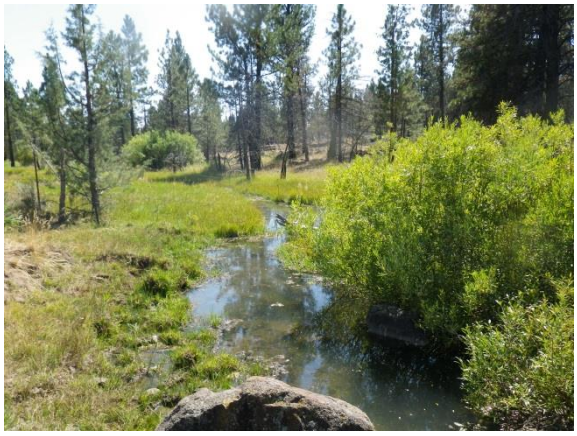
Wildhorse Pasture – Green Valley

August 21st, 2014





Implementation Monitoring Summary:

Utilization standards were not met in the Wildhorse Pasture at the Wildhorse Creek area but residual greenline stubble height was. Along the NF Willow Creek area all standards were met. There were several instances of unauthorized use. The permittee was very responsive to the instances with action and follow up.

In many ways I believe the efforts of the permittees may be lost on the limitations of the current management in place and both current and potential environmental/ecologic conditions.

Past issues in the allotment include

1. Inability to meet allowable use standards in the early 2000's.

2. Unauthorized use by cattle permitted on allotment 1-2 months past the off date.

Recommendations:

2015

Authorize use as permitted with the agreement that cattle will be moved early through pastures as well as off allotment if environmental conditions warrant. Issue a noncompliance letter with remedy regarding use in Wildhorse. The permittee is agreeable to a fence along Wildhorse Creek if use in 2015 is an issue or if use in the future indicates it is needed. This should be part of the recommended action if noncompliance occurs in the future along Wildhorse Creek.

Effectiveness – Wildhorse Allotment.

Riparian Classification and Status Plots – There are two riparian classification and status plots in Wildhorse Allotment. Notes and analysis by Karen Zamudio, retired USFS Ecologist attached

Condition and Trend Data – results reported here are tentative. The plots to be re-scored using most recent classification handbook available.

Wildhorse Pasture

Wildhorse Pasture has one Riparian Classification and Status Plots. It was installed in 2002 and has been reread twice since then. Both plant community type plots have shown a downward trend from Moderate similarity to PNC to Low similarity to PNC. The trend in the terrace plot is related to the continued shallow rooting depth and drop in vegetation ratings as related to potential for the site. In the floodplain plot the percentage of plants considered low in similarity to potential has increased while the plants in similarity to high potential has dropped. For the

most part the low species have been replaced by moderate species – 7%, but low similarity species did increase by 3%. Rooting depth is also an issue.

Pasture	Plot ID	Veg Type	Baseline	Re Read	Re Read
Wildhorse	0602A058K145SCST	ARCA/MG	2002	2006	2013
			M	L	L
Wildhorse	0602A058K145SCFP	Warm SB/Shrub	2002	2006	2013
			M	M	L

There are two Condition and Trend Parker 3 Step plots in the West Horseshoe Pasture. CT # 3 was established in 1953 and is in the meadow plant community type. It was rated as poor when established and fair in rereads completed in 1958 and 1964. The other plot, CT # 9 is in a sage plant community. It was established in 1966 and has not yet been rated.

Barnes Valley Pasture

There is one Condition and Trend Parker 3 Step plots in the Barnes Valley Pasture. CT # 11 was established in 1966 and is in the meadow plant community type. It was rated as poor when established.

Green Valley Pasture

There are four Condition and Trend Parker 3 Step plots in the Barnes Valley Pasture. CT # 8 is in the Sage plant community type. It was established in 1966 and has not been rated. CT # 2 was established in 1953, CT # 5 was established in 1957 and CT # 10 was established in 1966. They are in the pine plant community type. Although not relevant to range management the data may be useful to fire and/or silviculture.

Bear Valley Pasture

There are three Condition and Trend Parker 3 Step plots in the Bear Valley Pasture. CT # 1 is in the Meadow plant community type. It was established in 1967. It was rated as in good condition when established. CT # 3 is in the sage plant type. It was established in 1967 and in Fair condition when installed. CT # 2 is in the pine plant type. Although not relevant to range management the data may be useful to fire and/or silviculture.

Effectiveness Monitoring Summary:

Wildhorse Allotment, the riparian monitoring plot has been re-read in recent years. There is a downward trend in ecological condition. I believe the data needs to be looked at closer in relation to how the channel improvement projects may be having an effect on the scores. Specifically the juniper work that was completed which included disturbance to the actual plot. I also believe that the older work that induced the check dams could be hindering recovery to a point – specifically how those structures are influencing sediment release which is necessary for stream aggradation. I believe the long-term data warrants re-evaluation of the current management on the allotment and a closer look at other factors influencing the ecology of the plant communities.

2015 -2017

- Re-read and convert to Nested Frequency the relevant CT plots on the allotment.
- Discuss need to establish scorecard plots in Barnes Valley, Green Valley and Bear Valley Pastures.

- Meet with Stream Survey crew to discuss how vegetation data and stream channel data may or may not relate.

Prepared By: _____ Date: 2-18-15
Martina Keil, Rangeland Management Specialist

Approved By: _____ Date: 12 MAY 15
David B. Brillenz, District Ranger